

heres in the Presidency more power than in any other office in any great republic or constitutional monarchy of modern times, it can only be saved from abuse by having the people as a whole accept as axiomatic the position that no man has held it for more than a limited time. I don't think that any harm comes from the concentration of power in one man's hands, provided the holder does not keep it for more than a certain, definite time, and then returns to the people from whom he sprang.

*"In the great days of the Roman Eepublic no harm whatever came from the dictatorship, because great though the power of the dictator was, after a comparatively short period he surrendered it back to those from whom he gained it. On the other hand, the history of the first and second French Republics, not to speak of the Spanish-American Republics, not to speak of the Commonwealth, in Seventeenth Century England, has shown that the strong man who is good may very readily subvert free institutions if he and the people at large grow to accept his continued possession of vast power as being necessary to good government. It is a very unhealthy thing that any man should be considered necessary to the people as a whole, save in the way of meeting some given crisis. Moreover, in a republic like ours the vital need is that there shall be a general recognition of the moral law, of the law which, as regards public men, means belief in efficient and disinterested service for the public rendered without thought*

of personal  
gain, and above all without the thought of  
self-perpetua-  
tion in office.

"I regard the memories of Washington and  
Lincoln as  
priceless heritages for our people, just  
because they are  
the memories of strong men, of men who can  
not be accused  
of weakness or timidity, of men who I believe  
were quite as  
strong, for instance, as Cromwell or  
Bismarck, and very  
much stronger than the Louis Napoleon type,  
who, nevertheless, led careers marked by  
disinterestedness just as  
much as by strength; who, like Timoleon and  
Hampden, in  
very deed, and not as a mere matter of  
oratory or fine